

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraphs [0004], [0014], [0018], and [0021] with the following paragraphs rewritten in amendment format:

[0004] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an abrasion-resistant tubular sleeve having a monofilament forming a first weft in the fabric cloth, a first multi-filament yarn forming a second weft in the fabric cloth, and a set of crocheted warps including a plurality of textured multifilament yarns forming a chain stitch lap in the fabric cloth. The fabric cloth is crocheted in a flat configuration and then formed with a heating setting operation into a resilient tubular sleeve. In one embodiment of the present invention, a series of polyamide monofilament and multifilament yarns are utilized to provide an abrasion resistant tubular sleeve. In a second embodiment, a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) monofilament yarn is used in conjunction with a series of polyester multifilament yarns. The PET monofilament yarn and the polyester multifilaments yarns are treated with a flame-retardant to provide a self extinguishing, abrasion-resistant no-burn-rate tubular sleeve. In a third embodiment, a polyphenylene sulfide monofilament yarn is used in combination with a textured ~~Nomex®~~/Basofil® synthetic aromatic polyamide/melamine-formaldehyde based fiber blend yarn to provide a high-temperature, abrasion-resistant tubular sleeve. A non-limiting example of a suitable synthetic aromatic polyamide polymers is NOMEX®, produced by E.I. duPont de Nemours. A non-limiting example of a suitable melamine-formaldehyde based fiber is BASOFIL®, marketed by McKinnon-Land-Moran. In a fourth embodiment, a polyamide monofilament is utilized in conjunction with a series of stainless

steel/polyester blend yarns, and polyester multifilaments yarns to provide a shielded, abrasion-resistant tubular sleeve.

[0014] With reference to FIGS. 1-4, the present invention is directed to a generally flat crocheted fabric cloth 12 formed into a resilient sleeve which maintains its tubular shape. The fabric cloth 12 includes a monofilament yarn 14 forming a first weft and a textured multifilament yarn 16 forming a second weft in the fabric cloth 12. Fabric cloth 12 further includes a set of crocheted warps in the form of textured multifilament yarns forming a chain stitch lap 18 in the fabric cloth 12. In a preferred embodiment, the fabric cloth 12 further includes a set of placed warps including a plurality of multifilament yarns forming a lay-in stitch lap 20 in fabric cloth 12. The lay-in stitch lap 20 is utilized to fill the spacing on the face of the fabric cloth 12 in between the chain stitch lap 18 to provide a smoother surface thereon. However, one skilled in the art will appreciate that a fabric cloth 12 may be fabricated without the lay-in stitch lap ~~[[18]]~~ 20 and still be encompassed within the present invention. As used herein the term “yarn” is intended to include monofilaments, multifilament and combinations thereof.

[0018] As previously indicated, the present invention may be readily adaptable to a variety of abrasion-resistant tubular sleeving products. Table 1 reproduced below indicates four exemplar compositions for an abrasion-resistant tubular sleeve 10 in accordance with the present invention. As used in Table 1, PA refers to polyamide, PE refers to polyester, PET refers to polyethylene terephthalate, PPS refers to polyphenylene sulfide, N/B refers to a ~~Nemex®/Basofil®~~ NOMEX® synthetic aromatic polyamide/BASOFIL® melamine-formaldehyde based fiber blend, and SS

refers to stainless steel. The prefix FR used in Example 2 refers to yarns having a flame-retardant treatment known in the art.

[0021] In the third preferred example, Example 3A, a fabric cloth is crocheted principally from yarns of polyphenylene sulfide and yarns of a Nemex®/Basofil® NOMEX® synthetic aromatic polyamide/BASOFIL® melamine-formaldehyde based fiber blend to provide a high-temperature tubular sleeve capable of withstanding 200°C. Specifically, a polyphenylene sulfide monofilament yarn having a diameter in the range of 0.007" to 0.015" (7-15 mils) is used as the weft 14. Alternately, as indicated in Example 3B, a monofilament yarn having a polyphenylene sulfide with about 2% Teflon may be substituted for the weft 14. A textured Nemex®/Basofil® synthetic aromatic polyamide/melamine-formaldehyde based fiber multifilament blend yarn having a denier in the range of 1000 to 2000 (1000D-2000D) is used as the weft 16. A textured Nemex®/Basofil® synthetic aromatic polyamide/melamine-formaldehyde based fiber multifilament blend yarn having a denier in the range of 100 to 400 (100D-400D) is used as the crocheted warp 18. A textured Nemex®/Basofil® synthetic aromatic polyamide/melamine-formaldehyde based fiber multifilament blend yarn having a denier in the range of 50 to 400 (50D-400D) is used as the lay-in warp 20. In a most preferred embodiment, weft 14 is a 10 mil monofilament yarn, weft 16 is 1000D multifilament yarn, warp 18 is 400D multifilament yarn and warp 20 is 100D multifilament yarn. The blend of Nemex® synthetic aromatic polyamide to Basofil® melamine-formaldehyde based fiber in yarns 16, 18, 20 will be determined by the specific application and the processing parameters for the loom on which the fabric

cloth is crocheted. However, a 60/40 ~~Nomex/Basofil~~ synthetic aromatic polyamide/melamine-formaldehyde based fiber blend is presently preferred.